

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL (EMERGENCY FUNCTION 08)
SITUATION REPORT
EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) OUTBREAK
DATE OF REPORT: AUGUST 15, 2014
OPERATIONAL PERIOD: AUGUST 6-13, 2014
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CDPH)
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (EMSA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the West African nations of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia continues to expand. A cluster of cases has also been identified in Nigeria. As of August 13, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported a cumulative total of 1975 suspect and confirmed cases and 1069 deaths. CDC has advised travelers to avoid all non-essential travel to the West African nations of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. CDC has also issued a level 2 travel notice for Nigeria. Based on the current situation in West Africa, CDC considers the risk of importation of EVD into the United States to be very low. However, the outbreak is evolving, and this assessment may change. Both CDC and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have begun efforts to prepare for the unlikely event that a returning traveler from these countries is infected with Ebola virus. Persons arriving from the affected West African nations in California may develop illnesses and require medical evaluation. At present, the weekly situational assessment for the risk of Ebola infection in California is very low.

CDPH continues to work with the health care community and local health jurisdictions to identify potential suspect cases and avoid spread of the disease. On August 12, CDPH conducted two statewide calls with local health jurisdictions and local public health laboratories to review the current EVD situation and CDC guidances for identifying and managing cases with suspect Ebola virus infection that may arrive in California. The CDC advises that healthcare providers in the U.S. should consider Ebola infection in the differential diagnosis of febrile illness, with compatible symptoms, in any person with recent (within 21 days) travel history in the affected countries and consider isolation of those patients meeting these criteria, pending diagnostic testing. The initial symptoms of EVD are common to other infectious diseases. Prompt isolation of ill persons arriving from West African nations and careful infection control practices in health care facilities are essential to prevent the potential spread of Ebola virus infection while awaiting diagnostic testing results. CDPH has distributed CDC Health Alerts related to the EVD situation via the California Health Alert Network (CAHAN) to hospitals and local health jurisdictions.

DUTY OFFICERS ON CALL

Table 1. Duty Officers On Call		
Agency/Program	Duty Officer Information	
CDPH Duty Officer	Name:	Tony Champion
	Contact Information:	916-328-3605
EPO Duty Officer	Name:	Jean Paradis
	Contact Information:	916-328-9025
EMSA Duty Officer	Name:	Jody Durden
	Contact Information:	916-423-0911

CDPH CURRENT OPERATIONS

CDPH has created an internal workgroup to address all public health aspects of the Ebola response.

Center for Infectious Diseases Division of Communicable Disease Control (DCDC)

Epidemiology

- No suspect EVD cases requiring testing have been identified in California.

Surveillance

- On August 7, 2014, the CDC issued updated guidelines for identifying suspect cases of Ebola virus infection in persons with specific clinical and epidemiologic risk factors available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/case-definition.html>. This guidance was reviewed with local health jurisdictions on a statewide call held on August 12, 2014. DCDC requested that any suspect case should be reported to the local health jurisdiction. The local health jurisdictions will work with the DCDC clinical consultants to determine the risk level of suspect cases. DCDC has also created an interim case report form to capture data on potential EVD suspect cases, entitled "Viral Hemorrhagic Fever". CalREDIE jurisdictions can directly enter the epidemiologic and clinical information into the statewide electronic disease notification system (CalREDIE). Non-CalREDIE jurisdictions can fax the form to DCDC.

Laboratory

- CDC issued the "Interim Guidance for Specimen Collection, Transport, Testing and Submission for Patients with Suspected Infection with Ebola Virus Disease" on August 7, 2014. The interim guidance is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html>. This guidance was

reviewed with local health jurisdictions on the statewide call held on August 12, 2014. DCDC is also developing a document with operational information on shipping specimens to CDC for testing, to be distributed to local public health laboratories. Once the document is available, public health laboratories will be advised to share the document with the local hospitals and clinical laboratories in their jurisdictions.

Infection Control

- CDC has created an “Information for Health Care Workers” page, available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/index.html>. This page includes links to infection prevention and control recommendations for hospitalized patients with known or suspected Ebola infection (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>), as well as FAQ regarding the safe management of patients with Ebola in U.S. hospitals (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/patient-management-us-hospitals.html>), and Tools for Protecting Healthcare Personnel (<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/prevent/ppe.html>), which provides important instructions for donning and safe removal of personal protective equipment. These guidances were cited during the local public health department statewide call held on August 12, 2014.

Medical Countermeasures

- There are no updates at this time.

Community Mitigation

- CDC issued the interim guidance “Ebola Virus Infection for Airline Flight Crews, Cleaning Personnel, and Cargo Personnel” on August 11, 2014. The interim guidance is available at: www.cdc.gov/quarantine/air/managing-sick-travelers/ebola-guidance-airlines.html. On August 6, 2014, CDC issued a travel alert (Level 3) advising travelers to avoid all non-essential travel to Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. On August 7, 2014, CDC issued a Level 2 alert for Nigeria advising travelers to practice enhanced precautions. CDC is working with partners to establish pre-travel screening in affected countries and to notify travelers returning from those countries about steps to take if they develop symptoms possibly consistent with EVD.

Other DCDC Actions

- Conference Calls
 - Review of current CDC Guidance for Ebola
 - Participants: Local Health Jurisdictions
 - Held: 8/12/2014

- Review of Laboratory Guidance and Issues related to Ebola
 - Participants: Local Public Health Laboratories
 - Held: 8/12/2014

Emergency Preparedness Office (EPO)

EPO is supporting coordination of the CDPH response to Ebola and is prepared to activate the MHCC, if required.

CAHAN Alerts

- 7/29/14 – *Ebola Virus Disease Confirmed in a Traveler to Nigeria, Two U.S. Healthcare Workers in Liberia*
- 8/1/14 – *Response to Persons with Possible Ebola Virus Infection: Information for Health Care Providers in California*
- 8/4/14 – *Guidelines for Evaluation of US Patients Suspected of Having Ebola Virus Disease*
- 8/12/14 – *UPDATE: Guidelines for Evaluation of US Patients Suspected of Having Ebola Virus Disease*

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)

OPA has posted a press release on the CDPH website, plus an EVD Fact sheet, a link to “More Information on Ebola” and the link to the CDC Ebola web page.

EMSA CURRENT OPERATIONS

EMSA is prepared to coordinate with EPO if there is a need to activate the MHCC.

EMSA is also reviewing potential guidance for infection control measures for emergency first responder personnel.

OPERATIONAL AREA CURRENT IMPACTS/ACTIONS

Current impacts/actions for Operational Areas are not included in this situation report as local situation reports have not been requested or provided at this time.

MHCC PUBLIC INFORMATION

Press Releases Issued

Ebola Virus Poses No Significant Risk to Californians, Issued: 8/8/2014

Public Health Advisories in Effect

None

Media Contact of Note

None

Fact Sheets
None

MHCC RESOURCE REQUESTS

N/A

MHCC FINANCIAL IMPACTS

N/A